

A  
MORE FULL  
AND  
EXACT RELATION  
FROM  
READING,  
Of their proceedings there:

As it was writ in a Letter sent from a  
Serjeant Major there, to a Lieytenant Col-  
lonell in L O N D O N April. 20.



LONDON,

April 21. Printed by R. Oulson and G. Dexter. 1643.

Harvard College Library  
Coolidge Fund  
October 25, 1939

READING

on the preceding page:

in a letter from the  
of the Coolidge Fund  
to the Harvard College Library

RECEIVED

Harvard College Library  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

(1.)

FROM  
THE ARMY  
Before READING,

APRIL, 20th. 1643.

SIR,



Our former favours doe so farre ingage me  
unto your Service, that I cannot but bee  
mindfull of your request, which was that  
you might sometimes heare from me how  
the state of things goe with us, which I  
shall hereby give you as true a Relation of as I can:  
upon the fourteenth of this present Moneth, wee march-  
ed from our Winter Quarters at *Henly* to *Walgrave*,  
and there quartered that Night. The Fifteenth, wee  
marched againe early to *Abbermill* Bridge, where we  
met his Excellence with the rest of his Forces, and so  
advanced along with the Army, untill we came to the  
place where we now lie; being about a mile from *Rea-*  
*ding*, on the Rode to *Newberry*, to which place we came  
to our Quarter under a hedge in *Greenfield*, about nine  
of the Clock that night, where we lay that night; on-  
ly there was a command given to me, to draw forth of  
our Regiment thirty men for Pioners, and a like pro-  
portion out of all the Regiments being at that time a-

bout nine or tenne; only Major Generall *Skippon* was exempted, being appointed as a guard for the aforesaid Labourers.

I led up our thirty men to the place appointed about eleven of the clock that night, to which place came Major Generall with his Regiment, and leading them and the Worke-men to a fit place neare the Towne, raised a Battery, where that morning were the great Ordinance planted, and began to play hotly upon the Enemy, the Enemy had done as much before upon our Labourers, but thanks bee to God they came all safe off: all that day the Majors Regiment maintained that worke, and lost but foure men, and very few wounded: two other Regiments approached the same day towards the Towne, in other places, to all which Regiments were that night being Sabbath night, appointed three other Regiments, as Reserves to them, lying behinde the next convenient hedges behinde them, one whereof was ours, being Reserves to those that were approached toward the Enemies workes, that lye on this side of the Towne, on the lowermost left point toward *Causeway bridge*, the 17th. at night the three Regiments of Reserves relieved the other three, that were upon the points, and three other drawne out as Reserves to them: upon Munday in the after noone, the Enemy issued out of the Port toward Sir *William Constables* Regiment, to whom ours was as Reserves with a Troop of Horse, and about 30. Musquetiers, but were quickly beaten in, Sir *William* having lost one man, and the Enemy three that were seene, that night we fell into the same point in Sir *Williams* roome, and relieved them: Colonell  
*Hoborne*

*Hoborne* being appointed as Reserves to us, we plyed them and they us all that night with Musquers, sending each other plenty of lead, and they sent us some pewter, then came we in a more speciall manner to take notice of Gods providence, in directing the bullets that they should not hurt us, for wee had not one man that night wounded, the next morning (I having the Honour to command our second grand Division) by breake of day sent the one halfe of it under the Command of Captaine *Callingwood*, to take another hedge one fields breadth nearer to the Enemy, being within Carbine shot of their workes, after whom when I had given some other directions I went my selfe, from which place we plyed the Enemy lustily, but could not doe them much hurt, onely our Souldiers said they see three men fall: but about noone I got down our Saker, and one Drake, to that very place, and our Gunner began to pelt them with round and case shot, and shewed good courage therein, yet the Enemy would not much shew themselves to us, therefore I commanded a Liev: with three fyles of Musquers, to goe under the favour of a crosse hedge, as neere as might be to their workes, and then shew themselves and fire upon them, which they did, and then they were answered roundly, but they made safe retreat to us, and onely one man was wounded.

Then the Wasps began to be angry, and began to flee and hum nimble about our eares all that day, without almost any intermission; after a while they issued out some few of them towards us, but were quickly sent in againe, yet after that they came forth againe into an Orchard below their Workes, and our hedge,

so that wee were constrained to draw forth into the plaine Meddow about 40. Muskietiers, and expose them to their shot; and Captaine ASHLEY who shewed a great deale of courage, came downe presently from our first grand Division with a Party of Muskietiers, and tooke the Meddow on our left hand; and Fiering hotly upon them, and they upon us, and notwithstanding that they had the Fence of a ditch Bank, and ~~was~~ as yet they were sonne sent in againe, and ours came all safe off, blessed bee God, onely one Serjeant shot in the foot: And thus we continued pelting each at other, all the day, untill wee were relieved at 9. or 10. a Clocke at Night, we lost onely two men, both of Capaine ASHLEYS, one Drummer shot in the head as he lay under a hedge, another shot in the Belly as hee had been to fetch himselfe some food, and was coming to us againe: we had not above foure or six wounded, blessed bee GOD: our Men shewed so much courage, that His Excellency tooke speciall notice of us, and sent us thanks, which was honour enough for all our paines we tooke.

All other Regiments as farre as I heare, have done bravely, and every one as he comes upon duty, labours to gaine ground of the Town, so that now wee are all very neare.

Wee lie all in the Fields day and night, wee want provision much, and Money: Faire water is very comfortable to us, where wee have time, and opportunity to come by it: I thanke my GOD, I finde as much comfort and health lying under a hedge, and suffering Hunger and Thirst, and Cold, as when I lay in a Feather Bed, and fared well: So good is our GOD unto us, in carryng us on in his Worke: For Men slaine  
or

or wounded in all our Army, was the most last Night that were Slain, accidents and all, and not many wounded, very few indeed considering the thousands of bullets great and small, that are Shot at us, and make us severall sorts of Musicke, as they passe thorow the Aire: We heare that of the Enemy many are Slaine, 40. killed at once, by one shot of a Granado, that fell right amongst them: we heare that one Colonell of theirs is Slain, what more we know not. Upon MUNDAY they received a supply of 500 Men, and foure Loads of Provision, But I hope they make as merry as they can with that, but shall get no more: They stand stoutly to their workes, and are well fortified.

Sir, this is the summe of what I could take notice of, and as neere as possible I can the Truth, though not expressed, in so good Phrase as it might bee: but I hope you will onely make use of it for your owne private information, and accept of it as from him that desires to serve you, and remaine.

*Yours to Command. T. C.*

*Pay is scarce.*

---

**FfNfS:**